

Miners' Union Hall
Bodie, Mono County
California

HABS No. CAL-1919

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26 Bodie

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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MINERS' UNION HALL

Bodie, Mono County, California

ADDRESS: Main Street, Bodie, California
OWNER: State of California
OCCUPANT: Cain Museum
USE: Museum

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Ghost Town of Bodie is a Registered National Historic Landmark and California Historical Landmark #341.

Placer gold was first discovered here in July 1859 and a quartz vein located in August 1859; but though many efforts were made to exploit the area it was not until 1874 that the great potential wealth of the district became promising. Bodie reached its peak in production in 1879-80 and the population reached 10-12 thousand. Total production of gold and silver is estimated at 90-100 million.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The building was built in 1878 by the Miners' Union and occupied a very prominent position in the economic, cultural and recreational life of Bodie, thereafter. It served as the local theater for stock and local productions.

The Miners' Union held their annual Grand Ball on the Fourth of July, which was a formal affair for the ladies and began with a grand march. It was during a dance at the Hall that a cold-blooded murder and subsequent lynching took place, when Joseph de Roche

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murdered John Treloar who had accused DeRoche of improper relations with his wife; and the "601 Vigilante Committee" carried out their verdict on a scaffold set up in the street in front of the Hall.

The building during recent years has been used by the J. S. Cain Company as a museum where many historical documents and mementos of life in Bodie can be viewed. Included are portraits of people prominent in Bodie's past, paintings by the rival women - Lottie Johl and Anna Donnelly, mining records, the undertakers hearses, household items, the first motor ever to be operated by electricity carried over long distance transmission line - to name a few.

In 1962 the Town of Bodie was acquired by the State of California as a State Park under the jurisdiction of the Division of Beaches and Parks.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL AND SOURCES

California State Historical Landmark No. 341
Cain, Ella M., The Story of Bodie, Fearon Publishers,
San Francisco 1956
Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. 56-11439
HABS Report, 1962: CAL-1918 Bodie - General

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

Overall Dimension - Rectangular, approx. 30' x 96', with entrance in street front facing east.

Foundations - Stone blocks, unsquared.

Underpinning - 12' x 12", 6' on center supporting 6" x 6" girders and 4" x 6" floor joists at 18" on center.

Wall Construction - 2x4 studs, rustic, and board and batten.

Openings - Entrance door: Double 5'-6" x 9', 2½" thick, two-panels and mouldings. Transom over.
Windows: Double hung, 6/6 light, counter weight lower sash only. Window caps at street front.

Roof - Pitch: approx. 9:12, wood shingles. Gable with false front. Classic cornice. Boxed eaves.

Sidewalk - Plank, 2 inches thick.

INTERIOR

Floor Plan - Rectangular, 29' x 57'-6", with stage 12' deep and dressing rooms to rear. Ceiling 13' high.

Stairs - To stage, either side.

Floor - 1x6 T&G pine.

Wall and Ceiling Finish - Wainscot: 4' high, oakgrained T&G pine, Wainscot cap. Wall and Ceiling: 1x6 center bead, T&G.

Doors - 4-panel pine.

Trim - Ogee ceiling mould from 1x4. Door and window trim - plain with 1x2 shadow box.

Hardware - Cast iron rim locks and bolts. Lever handle and top and bottom bolts at entrance door.

Lighting - Electric.

Heating - Cast iron stoves. (Original stove, Champion Universal No. 516, now at Bridgeport Hotel)

Prepared by

A. Lewis Koue

A. Lewis Koue, AIA
National Park Service

December 1962

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

Charles S. Pope, AIA
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office
National Park Service

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